

Research on the Collaborative Education Mechanism of Graduate Ideological and Political Education from the Perspective of Cultivating Virtue and Cultivating Talents

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Abstract

In the talent cultivation system of higher education in China, the group of graduate students is at the highest level. The effectiveness of graduate ideological and political education not only affects the quality of graduate education in universities, but also relates to the rise and fall of the future socialist cause. In recent years, the annual expansion of graduate enrollment has brought enormous opportunities and severe challenges to the ideological and political education work in universities. Against the backdrop of the strong advocacy of the Party and the state for cultivating moral character, the fundamental task of cultivating moral character should be integrated into the work system of graduate ideological and political education. Cultivating moral character is the historical mission of graduate ideological and political education, and building a collaborative education system for graduate ideological and political education is also an inherent requirement for the success of graduate students.

Keywords: cultivating virtue and nurturing talents, graduate students, ideological and political education, coordination

1. Introduction

In recent years, with the vigorous development of graduate education in China, the enrollment scale of master's students in most universities has been continuously expanding. In 2023, the number of graduate students recruited nationwide has exceeded 917000.¹ How to make this group become the future qualified builders and reliable successors of the country, General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the 2018 National Education Conference that the primary issue of education is who to train.² In July 2020, General Secretary Xi Jinping made an important instruction on graduate education, pointing out that socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era, and will move towards a new journey of building a modern socialist country on the basis of a decisive victory in building a moderately prosperous society in all respects and fighting against poverty. The development of the cause of the Party and the country urgently needs to cultivate a large number of high-level

¹ China Education Online National Graduate Enrollment Survey Report, (2023). https://www.eol.cn/e_ky/zt/report/2023/catalog.html

² The Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China, (2018). Xi Jinping attended the National Education Conference and delivered an important speech. https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2018-09/10/content_5320835.htm?tdsourcetag=s_pctim_aiomsg&wd=&eqid=c1c88c9c0011be6c0000000264971a39

talents with both ability and integrity.¹

The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China once again emphasizes that “education is the great plan of the country and the Party.”² The fundamental issue of education is what kind of people to cultivate, how to cultivate them, and for whom to cultivate them. The root of education lies in moral education.” In the context of the strong promotion of moral education by the Party and the state, the fundamental task of moral education should be integrated into the work system of graduate ideological and political education.

2. The Main Elements of the Collaborative Education Mechanism for Graduate Ideological and Political Education from the Perspective of Cultivating Virtue and Cultivating Talents

General Secretary Xi Jinping pointed out at the national conference on ideological and political work in colleges and universities that we should adhere to moral cultivation as the central link, run ideological and political work through the whole process of education and teaching, achieve full process and all-round education, and strive to create a new situation for the development of China’s higher education. Therefore, in the central work of graduate ideological and political education, it is not only necessary to do a good job in moral education, but also to do a good job in moral education. This process is a collaborative education process, and it is necessary to build a collaborative education mechanism for graduate ideological and political education, that is, through multi-party cooperation and participation, to build a complete system of graduate ideological and political education, promote the synergy and mutual promotion of graduate ideological education and talent cultivation. Among the many elements of the collaborative mechanism of graduate ideological and political education, the human subject element is the most basic and important. The prerequisite for establishing a collaborative mechanism of graduate ideological and political education is to clarify the main elements of collaborative education. Under the concept of cultivating morality and nurturing talents, the subject of graduate ideological and political education is a broad concept. Internally, within universities, any group of faculty and staff who must and actually participate in the work of cultivating morality and nurturing talents belongs to the subject of graduate ideological and political education. Therefore, the subject here is not only the teacher who teaches graduate ideological and political theory courses, but also includes other educational subjects such as graduate school supervisors, graduate counselors, graduate professional course teachers, graduate branch secretaries, off campus supervisors, administrative workers, etc. Among many educational subjects, the role of graduate supervisors cannot be ignored. In 2018, the Ministry of Education issued the “Opinions on Fully Implementing the Responsibilities of Graduate Tutors in Cultivating Virtue and Talents”³, clarifying the primary responsibility of graduate supervisors in cultivating virtue and talents. This opinion proposed the requirement that supervisors should be the first responsible person for graduate education. In the process of constructing a collaborative education mechanism for graduate ideological and political education, graduate supervisors, as the first person in charge of graduate education, should play a leading role in the collaborative education mechanism and are an indispensable and important force for the main body of graduate ideological and political education.

3. Exploring the Path to Realize the Collaborative Education Mechanism of Graduate Ideological and Political Education from the Perspective of Cultivating Virtue and Cultivating Talents

The collaborative education mechanism for graduate ideological and political education is an educational mechanism that requires multi-party cooperation and participation. Currently, universities have established a sound collaborative education mechanism, which is conducive to further promoting the integration and mutual promotion of graduate ideological and political education and talent cultivation, and thus achieving the ultimate goal of optimizing the effect of moral education. This has important theoretical and practical significance. However, many universities have not yet formed a collaborative work pattern for graduate ideological and political education. Therefore, in order to establish a comprehensive collaborative mechanism for graduate ideological and political education, universities need to plan and coordinate from both the overall and global perspectives. Specifically, the following aspects should be taken into account.

Firstly, strengthen the construction of collaborative education system, and integrate the concept of collaborative education into the entire process of graduate ideological and political education.

¹ CNR News, (2020). Xi Jinping made important instructions on postgraduate education. http://china.cnr.cn/news/20200730/t20200730_525186303.shtml

² The Central People’s Government of the People’s Republic of China, (2022). Xi Jinping: Holding High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Solidarity in the Struggle for the Comprehensive Construction of a Socialist Modernized Country — Report to the 20th National Congress of the CPC. https://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2022-10/25/content_5721685.htm

³ Ministry of Education, (2018). Opinions on Fully Implementing the Responsibility of Cultivating Virtue and Talents for Graduate Supervisors. http://www.moe.gov.cn/jyb_xwfb/gzdt/s5987/201802/t20180209_327165.html

At present, the concept of collaborative education in graduate ideological and political education is not deep enough. As for the main body of graduate education, there is still a certain thinking pattern that believes that the ideological and political education work of graduate students is only the work of ideological and political theory teachers and counselors. In terms of institutional norms, there is a lack of a systematic system for implementing the collaborative education of ideological and political education for graduate students to cultivate moral character. The implementation of the concept requires supporting and improving relevant rules and regulations. Therefore, the goal and requirements of cultivating moral character through collaborative education should be clearly defined in the system. The concept of collaborative education should be integrated into various graduate education and management systems, providing strong institutional support for universities to carry out collaborative ideological and political education for graduate students. The construction of a collaborative education mechanism requires a top-down top-level design, which can lead in concept, guide in methods, coordinate in content, and operate in operation, fully reflecting the correlation, matching, and synergy of various educational subjects, making the collaborative education mechanism a closed-loop system with a healthy operation. The specific institutional guarantees include: on the one hand, universities should have relevant systems that clarify the specific responsibilities of graduate education subjects, which requires each education subject to understand and find their own role positioning in graduate ideological and political work. Therefore, universities should adhere to the starting point of all work to cultivate morality and cultivate talents. They should combine the various policies of the Party Central Committee on graduate ideological and political education with the actual situation of the school to formulate implementation rules that are suitable for the school's situation, implement the responsibility of cultivating morality and talents into specific job responsibilities, and implement national policies and guidelines in practice. Universities should establish a sound system of professional ethics norms for faculty and staff, especially clarifying and refining the professional behavior norms of various graduate education subjects; We need to continuously improve the regular and long-term mechanisms for assessment, evaluation, rewards and punishments of various educational subjects. On the other hand, universities should further improve their graduate training programs and daily management regulations, integrate the goals and measures of graduate ideological and political education into various systems such as teaching, research, management, and services, promote the coordinated promotion and resonance of graduate ideological and political education with teaching, research, and management services, and implement graduate ideological and political education in specific business work.

Secondly, strengthen the team building of various educational subjects, focus on enhancing the synergy of all subjects and unleashing their joint efforts.

At present, as the first person responsible for graduate education, mentors generally have not received systematic professional learning and training in ideological and political education, making it difficult for mentors to play the role that mentors should undertake in graduate ideological and political education in their daily guidance; As an important teacher for the cultivation of graduate professional abilities, namely the graduate professional course instructor, it is difficult to integrate the teaching content of professional courses with the task of cultivating moral character in teaching. The elements of graduate ideological and political education are difficult to reflect in management and service. Therefore, the role of professional course instructors as an indispensable educational subject for graduate ideological and political education needs to be strengthened; As a teacher of graduate ideological and political theory courses, although I have a solid theoretical foundation in the subject of ideological and political education, I can usually only play the role of an educational subject during the limited time of teaching, and my role in educating others is very limited during the rest of the time; As a life mentor and close friend counselor on the path of graduate growth, graduate counselors should become the backbone of ideological and political education for graduate students. Unlike undergraduate counselors, graduate counselors need to enhance the synergy of ideological and political education, play a role as a link and bridge, and work together with other educational subjects such as mentors to form a joint force for graduate ideological and political education. Therefore, in the absence of sufficient communication and coordination among various stakeholders, the collaborative ability of various educational entities urgently needs to be further improved. Specifically, the construction of the main body of moral education should be implemented from the following two aspects. On the one hand, it is necessary to promote the ability of deep cooperation among graduate supervisors, graduate counselors, and graduate ideological and political course teachers. Implement the primary responsibility of mentors in graduate ideological and political education, and exert their leading force; Make counselors the backbone of life mentors for graduate students, and gather their backbone strength; Enable ideological and political teachers to better serve as ferrymen and unleash their backbone strength. We should persist in arming the minds of teachers and staff with Xi Jinping's thought of socialism with Chinese characteristics for a new era, strengthen the systematic, normalized and long-term learning and training of all educational subjects, improve the level of ideological and political education of graduate tutors, broaden the ability of graduate ideological and political teachers to carry out extra-curricular ideological and political

education activities, and strengthen the understanding of their students' professional knowledge, so as to make up for the lack of their own ability. On the other hand, it is necessary to break down the professional barriers and communication channels among the three, strengthen the integration of various work such as "teaching + scientific research + party building + management + service", and build a multi subject participation model of ideological and political education, including "mentor + ideological and political course teacher", "mentor + counselor", and "counselor + ideological and political course teacher", to deeply explore the ideological and political elements of the first and second classrooms, and create a "professional gold course + ideological and political gold course". Universities should closely focus on the fundamental task of cultivating morality and talents, systematically build a collaborative system for graduate ideological and political education, use professional courses as carriers, continuously explore the historical and cultural aspects of professional courses, explore the industry spirit of serving the country and society, and extract them into professional core value systems, continuously optimize the content of graduate ideological and political education, classify and promote the construction of ideological and political education in professional courses, and do a good job in demonstration and guidance. With academic and professional ethics education as important starting points, civic education and faith education as key links, systematically sort out graduate ideological and political elements related to the profession, formulate curriculum ideological and political teaching guidelines, form systematic, scientific, and key ideological and political elements of graduate professional courses, and achieve professional goals. The coordination and unity of theoretical teaching and practical humanistic values make ideological and political education effective in the professional learning of graduate students.

Thirdly, strengthen the software and hardware construction of collaborative education in graduate ideological and political education, and build a good ecological environment for collaborative education.

Currently, there is a lack of platform construction for graduate ideological and political education, with insufficient sharing of educational platforms and a lack of collaborative educational atmosphere. The ideological and political education of postgraduates is not the unilateral responsibility of a certain education subject in colleges and universities, but a process of joint participation of multiple subjects based on a collaborative platform. Therefore, to promote the ideological and political education of postgraduates, we should rely on the Internet and other new media to build a collaborative platform for education, give full play to the all-round cultivation of campus culture on the ideological and political education of postgraduates, and use new media technology to create an educational ecology for cultivating high-quality talents with all-round development of morality, intelligence, physique and beauty. Firstly, universities should strengthen the construction of collaborative platforms for educational entities. Colleges and universities should rely on the Internet, WeChat, microblog and other new media to connect colleges and universities, families, society and individual students, create a healthy education environment, enhance the appeal of the collaborative education environment, and form a collaborative situation of moral cultivation. The second is to nourish the cultural soil for cultivating virtue and nurturing people. The main body of education in universities should be close to campus life and optimize the ideological and political education environment for graduate students. Each educational subject should pay attention to political guidance and promote ideological education; Strengthen the cultivation of campus culture and promote cultural education; Emphasize mental health education and promote psychological education; Improve the quality of management services and promote service education. At present, special attention should be paid to the aesthetic and labor education work of graduate students, adhering to the principle of aesthetic education and labor education as a source of pride. We need to establish a sound system for graduate aesthetic education, offer general elective courses and lectures on aesthetic education, cultivate the ability of graduate students to discover, experience, appreciate, and create beauty, and enable them to have a character of valuing beauty and being kind. To forge a new era of graduate students through labor education, a variety of labor education activities such as campus labor, social practice, and volunteer service should be carried out to cultivate students' correct labor concepts and good labor quality, and form a campus culture that combines moral, intellectual, physical, aesthetic, and labor education. By increasing the temperature of graduate ideological and political education, increasing the heat of graduate ideological and political education, and exploring the depth of graduate ideological and political education, we aim to create a "moistening and silent" ecosystem of graduate ideological and political education, allowing graduate students to immerse their ideological beliefs, moral cultivation, and patriotism in their daily learning and life, and transform them into practical actions, becoming qualified builders and reliable successors of the future socialist cause.

4. Conclusion

The report of the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China proposed to make "cultivating virtue and nurturing talents" the fundamental task of education in China, and the report of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China also put forward higher requirements for current education, especially graduate education. The report of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China once again emphasizes the comprehensive implementation of the Party's educational policy and the fundamental task of cultivating morality

and talent. Therefore, in order to achieve the effect of cultivating morality and talents in graduate ideological and political education at present, it is necessary to change the inherent single subject isolation and one-way force application, build an interconnected collaborative mechanism for graduate ideological and political education, achieve mutual support, resource sharing, and complementary advantages among various educational subjects, and form a joint force in education. Only then can the fundamental task of cultivating morality and talents be implemented well, and the effectiveness of graduate ideological and political education be ensured. Against the backdrop of the strong advocacy of the Party and the state for moral education, all faculty and staff should integrate the fundamental task of moral education into the comprehensive process of graduate education, running through the entire process of graduate training. This is the starting point and foothold of graduate ideological and political education that meets the requirements of moral education.

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